

Combat Logistics Battalion-22

CLB-22 Journal

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“Only The Best Will Do”

November 2007

COMMANDING OFFICER

Families and Friends of Combat Logistics Battalion 22

We are rapidly moving into another month of the deployment, with Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas just around the corner. The MEU and Strike Group have been very busy, conducting operations across the breadth of CENTRAL COMMAND, and into PACOM, where CLB Marines and Sailors aboard KEARSARGE took part in OPERATION SEA ANGEL II, a humanitarian relief operation in Bangladesh. Your Marines and Sailors of CLB-22 performed professionally and superbly.

We, aboard GUNSTON HALL, have been busy, with some time spent in the Seychelles for liberty, and the opportunity to participate in the centuries-old naval tradition, Crossing the Line, in recognition of sailing past the Equator. Following our visit to the Seychelles, where all hands enjoyed a few days of ‘island time’ relaxation. Completing that, we headed back to work, and have supported CENTCOM Maritime Security Operations.

Your Marines aboard PONCE have spent most of their time supporting various high level events in the Arabian Gulf, and had the opportunity to visit the ports in 5th Fleet. They have been busy and continue to do great things. Notably, Corporal Lesseme Ducatel, Supply Plt, was the honor graduate from the PONCE Corporal’s Course. Well Done, Marine!

Our team aboard Kearsarge journeyed far to the east, in response to the terrible cyclone that struck Bangladesh in

late November. Traveling over 3000 miles, they arrived the day after Thanksgiving day, and began the hard work of preparing and providing much needed relief and aid to the disaster-stricken country. The efforts of the whole 22nd MEU and KEARSARGE team was superb, and your CLB Marines and Sailors were in the thick of it, providing water, medical supplies, logistics and medical treatment. A super effort across the board.

We have graduated 2 Corporals’ Courses on Gunston Hall, with the following Top graduates and leadership graduates; Corporal Jesse Bramer, HQ/S3-Honor Graduate, Corporal Tara Emerick, HQ/MP, and Corporal Travis Anderline, Maint Plt - Leadership award for Class 1-08 and Corporal Ryan Roush, Maint Plt-Honor Graduate, Corporal Katie McGuffie, Comm Plt, Corporal Matthew Sullivan, Eng Plt and Corporal Steven Simpson, HQ/Food Service -Leadership award for Class 2-08
Congratulations to our Corporals!

I remain immensely proud of the achievements and professional performance of the Marines and Sailors of CLB-22, and am proud to be a part of this great battalion. I encourage you to continue visiting the 22nd MEU (SOC) website at www.22meu.usmc.mil for further details and photographs of the Battalion’s events as they are posted during the deployment.

If you should have any concerns, questions or just need some moral support during our deployment, I encourage you to contact your Key Volunteer, Family Readiness Staff Non-commissioned Officer, our family hotline or this website (www.22meu.usmc.mil) to obtain the up-to-date information you need. Please keep in mind that official and factual information regarding the Battalion’s movements, activities and operations will come solely from the 22nd MEU (SOC) Commanding Officer through me. Information sourced from me will only be delivered through the channels mentioned previously.

Thanks again for your prayers and support. My best wishes to all the families and friends back home.

SERGEANT MAJOR

Families, these recent months have been busy for our Marines and Sailors. Although ship life carries very routine daily functions, the Battalion has been very proactive in professional development, physical fitness, holiday activities and preparing for our upcoming Joint Training exercise and Community Relation Projects. We have recently graduated our second Corporal's Course and will soon be starting our third and final class of the deployment. Those Non-Commissioned Officers have been superb in their duties and the mastery of the subject material presented to them. Congratulations Marines!

Those elements embarked on the USS Kearsarge have set an example for us all during their Humanitarian Assistance operations and taking care of the people of Bangladesh during their time of need. CLB personnel aboard the USS Ponce have maintained our ESG presence throughout the Arabian Gulf while the USS Gunston Hall carried out taskings in a variety of other locations, to include crossing the Equator and participating in some time honored traditions. Those families at home should be proud of their Marines and Sailors. It has been my pleasure just to observe them progress through the deployment, both individually and as a unit. They have been nothing short of amazing in a time where nothing is sure. We look forward to a successful completion of our current operations and will be wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season.

FOOD SERVICE TEAM



*Food Service Team and USMC
232nd Birthday Cake*

Family, Friends and Loved ones, we are 4 months into our deployment. As the old saying goes, "It's all down hill from here." Not quite for us however, we still continue to stay busy and to continuously prepare and train for the next evolution in our training cycle. Since the last newsletter we have had one more newly promoted Marine, Corporal Stewart, who was promoted on December 1st, 2007. On November 10th, we prepared the 232nd United States Marine Corp Birthday meal along with the ceremonial cake.



LCpl Simpson is promoted to Corporal

As Food Service personnel we train 364 days a year for this meal and the Marines did an outstanding job. We also got to prepare our Thanksgiving Meal on November 22nd which was a feast fit for a king. We are able to stop into Seychelles for

a few days which was a nice break for us all. Some purchased souvenirs while others took advantage of the lovely resort beaches. Thank you for your continuous support.

MAINTENANCE PLATOON

To the family, Friends and Loved ones of Maintenance Platoon, Happy Holidays! Maintenance Platoon has accomplished a lot over the last months. During September and October, Maintenance Platoon offloaded their equipment in Kuwait to support the Marine Expeditionary Unit's training mission at Camp Buehring. Camp Buehring is a small forward operating base in the Northern Kuwaiti Desert built mainly for training. Most Marines enjoyed the facilities while at Camp Buehring which included a Starbucks Coffee, Taco Bell, KFC, USO, movie tent and a nice exchange system. It was good for the Marines to get off the ship and stretch their legs on solid ground, or should I say, sand.



*Maintenance Marines Receive
Good Conduct Medals*

On 10 November, Maintenance Marines participated in the celebration of the Marine Corps 232nd Birthday and most recently a wonderful Thanksgiving Day meal. Please do not worry about your Marines being away from family and friends during the Holidays. Maintenance Platoon has developed a really close bond, and I would like to say we are our own family. Please

know Maintenance Platoon greatly appreciates everything you do to support us while we are forward deployed. Until next time, may God bless all of you during this Holiday Season.



*Cpl Lanier is Promoted to the
Rank of Sergeant*

COMMUNICATIONS PLATOON

The month of November has been very interesting for the Marines assigned to the Communications platoon. During this month, we celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday, Thanksgiving, and crossed the equator in the Indian Ocean, which is an event that not very many people have the opportunity to experience. In Naval tradition there is a term that refers to Marines and Sailors that have crossed the equator and that is -- "Shell Back." All the Marines in the platoon are proud to now claim that title. In celebration of the Marine Corps birthday, we had a traditional cake-cutting ceremony on the flight deck of the ship followed by a special birthday meal on the ship's mess decks. The ceremony provided our Navy counterparts aboard ship a glimpse of how Marines celebrate our Corps birthday and how much we value our history and traditions. Immediately following the ceremony, Sergeant Howard, a Communications Field Radio Operator, took the opportunity to raise his right hand and recited the oath of enlistment as he re-enlisted for four years of additional service in the Marine Corps.



Comm Platoon Family

Aside from taking a day to reflect and celebrate the Marine Corps, birthday and observing Thanksgiving, we have been very busy as a platoon this month preparing our equipment and personnel for any unexpected missions that we may be called to execute. We pride ourselves as being one of the hardest working platoons within the Battalion, and after approximately thirty consecutive days at sea we stopped and had a brief port visit on the island of Seychelles just off the coast of Africa. We enjoyed the eye-catching tropical scenery as we sailed on to the island and, during the day, we visited the local town to shop, eat, swim in the clear blue tropical ocean, and enjoy the culture that Seychelles had to offer. At night, we went out to enjoy the island night life and to take pleasure in being on dry land again. Port visits are good for experiencing other cultures and providing us with a brief opportunity to relax because life on ship everyday is a day at work and there are really no opportunities to escape and truly relax. So, as we headed back out to sea from our port visit it was comforting to know that we had surpassed the halfway of deployment and we were closer to our return and reunion with our loved ones.

MEDICAL PLATOON

While in Camp Beurhing, Kuwait, the remaining of corpsmen of medical platoon, HN McCoy, HN Krause, HM3 Lejeune, and

HM2 Gumnerdngam completed their FMF qualifications. HM3 McLaughlin and HM3 Mixay stayed busy in Kuwait doing operations in support of OIF with the MEU's EOD unit. When we returned to the Gunston Hall and the Kearsarge in October, we went back to work. LT. Ehrmann taught a smoking cessation class for the Marines and Sailors of CLB 22. The corpsmen continued to work on their surface warfare (ESWS) pins. We celebrated the US Navy and the US Marine Corps, birthdays on board. HM2 Gumnerdngam, along with other members of the 22 MEU on board the USS Kearsarge, supported operations in Bangladesh after the cyclone destroyed many of the sea-adjacent towns. By supplying clean water and food to those in need, they made a big difference in the people of Bangladesh's lives. Thanksgiving brought lots to be thankful for with a delicious feast with all the trimmings. We all hope our families and friends at home continue to have a safe and happy holiday season. Thanks for your continued support of us.



Navy Corpsman FMF Pinning Ceremony

ENGINEER PLATOON

With November brings yet another turning point for the Marines of CLB-22's Engineer Platoon. During the period of October 12-19, the Platoon proved once again that they are among the best in the business at their occupational specialties.

The Heavy Equipment section

earned their pay by flawlessly executing yet another tough onload in Kuwait. They worked long and tedious hours under heavy pressure to load all of the 22d MEU's equipment back onto the three ships. Their proficiency and hard work made this one of the smoothest onloads and showed that they are ready for any task.

Once back on board the respective ships of the Kearsarge Strike Group, the Marines all got a chance to relax and enjoy a few days of well deserved leisure time when the ships made liberty calls in the ports of United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

After getting back underway, the Utilities section Marines were called upon to operate the Tactical Water Purification System on board the USS Gunston Hall to help supplement the ship's depleted water stores. The Marines overcame several obstacles in order to set the equipment up and create water for consumption, food preparation, and hygiene, but nonetheless did what Marines do best and accomplished the mission.

The Marines are still taking advantage of the time they have on ship to sharpen their MOS and combat skills to make sure that they remain ready to answer the call to duty at any time or place, and are standing by anxiously waiting to make America proud.



Cpl Sullivan, LCpl Trujillo Purify Water

SUPPLY PLATOON

Good November friends and family of the Marines and Sailors of the 22nd MEU, and especially to the ones from CLB-22 Supply. We find ourselves at the end of another month, away from family, friends, and celebrations that, too often, we all take for granted. Occasions, in which we can take time away from our every day lives and really bond with everyone we care for in our lives. These are occasions that only happen very few times in the year and a lot of those times we make excuses of why we can not fully participate and enjoy because of work, or a number of other reasons. I ask now that you enjoy the time that you have with each other in the United States or wherever you might be and know that we are with you in spirit. Before you know it, we will be there with you. Your sons and daughters are proud warriors, honored to be here defending our country in these hard times, but inside every one of them burns the yearning to see you all once more and to be able to partake in this holiday's celebrations. Once more, thank you from all your support given so far and for all you will do not just for your immediate family members here but for all military personnel currently active. Since you, the families, and friends truly know that "freedom is not free" Happy holidays.

CHAPLAIN

Happy Holidays! The month of November was yet another exciting and prosperous month for the Religious Ministry Team (RMT). We celebrated 232nd Birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps and just 18 days later we celebrated the birthday of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps'. A small ceremony was held in honor of those chaplains who have gone before us and those who serve today. Along with these glorious events, RPSN Wert was frocked to Petty Officer. Frocking authorizes a Marine or Sailor to wear their selected rank before their actual promotion number comes up. So as you can see we have had quite a

blessed month.



RPSN Wert Frocked to Petty Officer

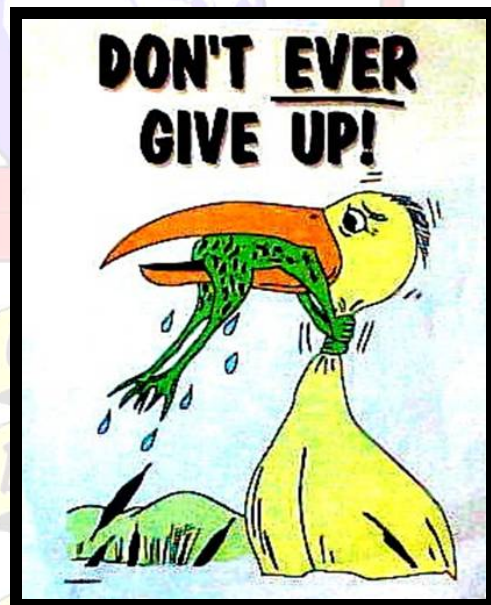
The Command Religious Program (CRP) is also alive and well. We kicked off the beginning of the month with our Holiday Choir meeting. The initial response for volunteers was positive. The Choir's mission is to spread a little holiday cheer to our fellow Marines and Sailors.



USS Gunston-Hall Holiday Choir

On Thanksgiving Day, before partaking of a delicious meal, we held an Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service. Our theme for this service was, "What Are You Thankful For?" Almighty God blessed the service and we had a high time in the LORD. Throughout our deployment, the Command Religious Program has offered an array of Daily Devotions, Ethics, Inter-Personal Classes, Weekly Bible Studies, and Sunday Morning Worship Services. During

our Daily Devotions, we are currently studying the Gospel According to Saint John. We also are in the middle of an exciting Weekly Bible Study entitled, "The TRUTH Project" where we have begun to explore some of life's most important questions, i.e., What is Truth? What is the Meaning and Purpose of Life? Where does Evil come from? I know you are probably thinking, wow! We stand in awe of God's divine plan for mankind. Before I close, I would like to invite you to become a part of the CRPs e-mail ministry: Daily Bread. It is an opportunity for you to receive a positive or thought provoking quote that is sure to stir you up mentally and spiritually. If you are interested please let me know: calvin.gardner@gunston-hall.usmc.mil. Here is a little sample of the Daily Bread e-mail ministry:



God Bless you, and thank you for your unwavering support and love of those who serve our great nation!